

SECRET*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 4 August 1948

FROM : Chief, Foreign Documents Branch

SUBJECT: FDB Monthly Progress Report

Forwarded herewith is progress report of Foreign Documents Branch for month ending 31 July 1948.

I. Implementation of Recently Proposed Plans

Eucom Document Project

The FDB screening team arrived in Germany in the middle of July and presently is in full operation. It has been suggested by Major Seeley, ID, Department of Army, that a teleconference with EUCOM be held in the near future to cover problems that may have arisen since the departure of the team.

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 Project"

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Approval of FDB recommendations to terminate the Project" has been received. Necessary administration action will be taken to close the project as of 30 September 1948.

Procurement Officer Briefing

In accordance with informal agreements with the State Department whereby procurement officers of the State Department will be briefed by FDB prior to duty abroad, two new representatives were apprised of branch interests.

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Library of Congress Arrearage

Arrangements have been completed through conferences with OCD and Library of Congress for FDB to screen USSR books representing the arrearage now accumulated at the Library of Congress. The project is currently in operation. The publication of a bibliography by FDB of selected books will invite attention to the existence and availability of such items in the Library of Congress.

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Procurement of Yugoslav Publications

The first step toward a coordinated IAC program for procurement of foreign publications was taken on 2 July when a conference of IAC representatives was held. It was generally agreed that endeavors should be made to effect a coordinated procurement program with regard to Yugoslavia. The program is to be under a State Department coordinator with each of the IAC Agencies contributing funds. It is proposed that the material received will come through State Department channels to FDB for a centralized processing resulting in Accession Lists and Periodical Abstracts.

ORE Requirements for Translation

FDB and ORE with the concurrence of OCD worked out arrangements whereby FDB will receive requests (for translation only) directly from several branches of ORE. This procedure is on a trial basis pending final approval. Translations produced in answer to these direct requests will be forwarded to OCD for dissemination.

II. Accomplishment

25X1A 1. Arrangements have been effected with the Library of [] for a periodic pick up for retention of foreign language publications received by that agency.

2. As a further measure in preventing duplication in translation activities, (a) additional card abstracts were received by the branch from the Aeronautical Chart Services exploitation program [] (b) a listing of translations completed by the Navy Research Laboratory from 1945 to March 1948 was procured. Arrangements were made to obtain current lists and copies of all future translations.

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3. Arrangements were effected with Air Offensive Branch, Department of Air, for forwarding USSR publications on loan to FDB.

4. A survey is presently being conducted to ascertain the utilization of IC cards produced by FDB.

5. In implementing assigned FDB functions the Deputy Chief, FDB, on 22 July conferred with [] Requirements Division, Plans and Policies Staff, ORE, and individual area branch chiefs or deputies for FDB planning purposes and for guidance in determining general branch organization.

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6. Branch reorganization was discussed with representatives of Management Branch and OO during the month and received approval as of the last day of the month. It is felt that the new organization will put the branch on a more realistic and fundamentally sound operating basis.

7. Inasmuch as the Atomic Energy Commission desired up to 500 copies of the unclassified bibliography of Russian periodicals, FDB concurred with OCD in allowing the loan of plates so that AEC could produce as many as required. This procedure effectively avoids duplication in that similar work being done for AEC [redacted] will be discontinued and in its place [redacted] will produce translations of articles from periodicals appearing in the bibliography and provide FDB with a copy of these translations.

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8. IBM Transport Card File. With the concurrence of OCD it was decided during the month that it would devolve upon FDB to determine in what manner transportation information would be produced since OCD did not feel willing to approach the IAC on a coordinated IBM handling at the present time. FDB will produce this information in the form of translations similar to the two that have already been produced on USSR Railroads.

9. During the month of July, FDB produced approximately 4,400 pages of reports, processed 11,900 current documents and forwarded 5,750 captured documents to other repositories.

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J. BAGNALL for

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